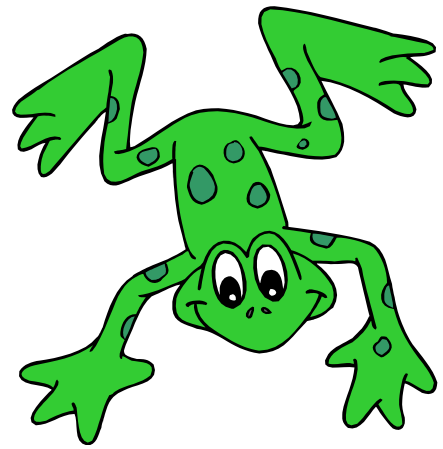


# First Grade Leaps Into Learning

October 8, 2010



## *Reading News*

To review what we learned this past week, ask your child the following questions (*correct answers provided*): What letters and sounds did you learn this week? (**p** and **ch**) What keys did you learn to read? (ap, op, & and) How many boxes were on your matrix? (9)

Next week we'll work on the letters and sounds for **f** and **k**. Our new keys will be ack and ock. The "circle words" will be *make*, *walk*, *there*, and *they*.

***\*\*\*Please use the "Language of Instruction" for writing the cursive letters when you are working on writing at home. If you need some extra writing sheets with "the cabin" on them to use at home, please let your child's teacher know.\*\*\****

## *Math News*

This week we played games to develop addition and subtraction concepts. The games will help the children develop the mental images which they will need to work at the abstract level of addition and subtraction. You can easily play "The Hand Game" at home. You need beans or other small objects that can easily fit in small hands. To play with 4 beans, put 2 beans in each hand; open one hand and have your child tell you how many beans must be in the other hand. Repeat using other combinations for 4. You can increase the number as long as the objects fit in hands.

We will soon be working on learning addition facts to ten in standard form. It's not too early to start working on mastering those basic facts. You can purchase or make flashcards. Mastery of addition and subtraction facts to eighteen is an end-of-year first grade goal.



## *Science / Social Studies News*

This week we learned about the season of fall. We read books about fall and listed the changes experienced by plants, animals, people, and Earth in the fall (Science SOL 1.7). To see what your child learned ask these questions:

- Why do leaves change colors? *(the chlorophyll fades out of the leaf)*
- What do some animals do in fall to get ready for winter? *(grow a heavier coat, migrate, eat a lot to prepare for hibernation, store food)*
- What changes do people make in the fall? *(wear warmer clothes, store food, put blankets on their beds, use their furnaces, build a fire in the fireplace)*
- What happens to plants in the fall? *(some die, some become dormant, seeds fall to the ground, leaves change colors)*

I included some of their responses to guide you in your discussion.

Next week we will be learning about Christopher Columbus (Social Studies SOL 1.3).

## *Interim Reports*

The date that Interim Reports will be sent home has been changed from Friday, October 8 to Tuesday, October 12.

## *Important Dates in October*

- 11 - NO SCHOOL (Professional Day for Teachers)
- 12 - Interims sent home (note change of date)
- 15 - Fall Fundraiser ends
- 20 - Fall Picture Day
  - Fox's Pizza Night 3:00 pm - 9:00pm
- 23 - PTO Fall Festival 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

